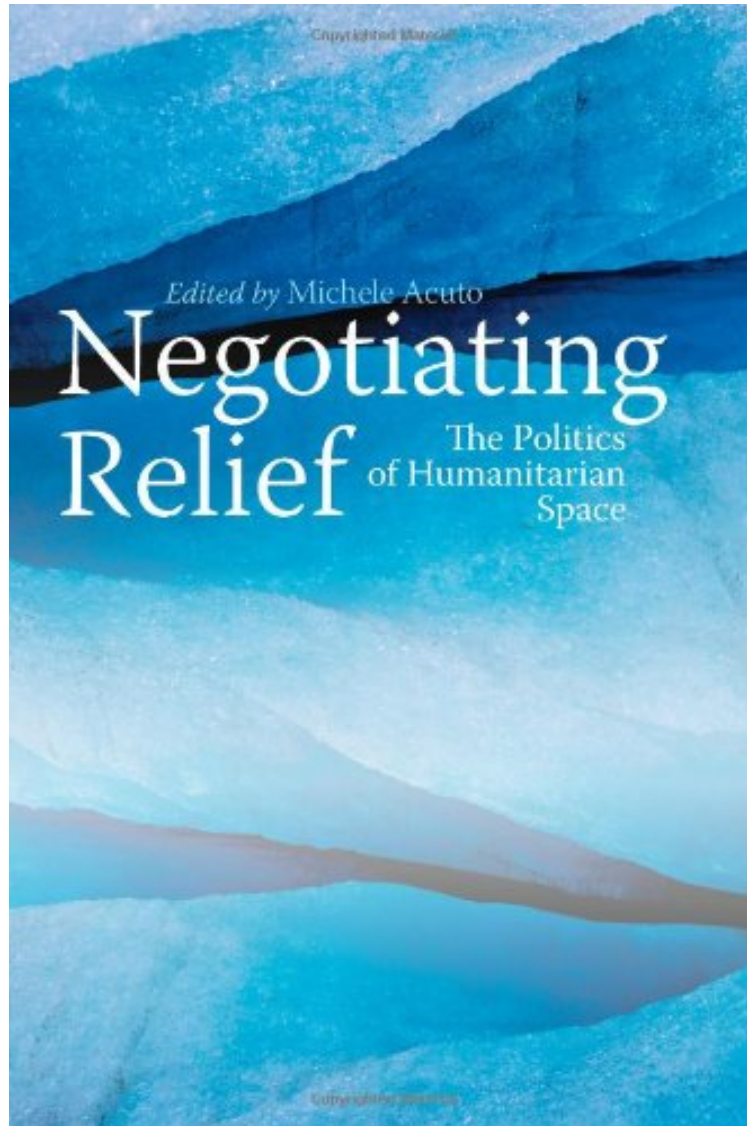


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Negotiating Relief: The Dialectics of Humanitarian Space

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While humanitarianism is unquestionably a fast-growing subject of practitioner and scholarly engagement, much discussion about it is predicated on a dangerous dichotomy between "aid givers" and "relief takers" that largely misrepresents the negotiated nature of the humanitarian enterprise. To highlight the tension between these

relationships, this book focuses on the "humanitarian spaces" and the dynamics of "humanitarian diplomacy" (both local and global) that sustain them. It gathers key voices to provide a critical analysis of international theory, geopolitics and dilemmas underpinning the negotiation of relief. Offering recent examples from cases such as Kosovo and the Tsunami, or ongoing crises like Haiti, Libya, Darfur and Somalia, the contributors analyze the complexity of humanitarian diplomacy and the multiplicity of geographies and actors involved in it. By investigating the transformations that both diplomacy and humanitarianism are undergoing, the authors prompt us towards a critical and eclectic understanding of the dialectics of humanitarian space. *Negotiating Relief* aims to present humanitarianism not only as a relief delivery mechanism but also as a phenomenon in dialogue with both localized crises and global politics.

"This is a very valuable collection. Michele Acuto has sketched out a new way of looking at humanitarian diplomacy, and brought together an impressive array of humanitarian scholars to examine what it means for humanitarian action to take an ever larger place in local and international politics. An excellent one-stop shop for humanitarian students and professionals alike." -- Hugo Slim, Senior Research Fellow at the university of Oxford Institute for Ethics, and author of *Killing Civilians: Method, Madness and Morality in War*

"One of the most notable features of modern society is the internationalisation of the human conscience and one of the great advances of the last hundred years has been the universalisation of the human rights norm. What does this signify for public policy in local and international politics? What is the humanitarian community, who are the humanitarian actors, is there such a thing as humanitarian space, and how sacrosanct should it be? A stellar cast of authors is assembled in this impressive volume to guide us towards answers to these critical questions of contested humanitarianism in an increasingly congested global space." -- Ramesh Thakur, The Australian National University, Editor-in-Chief, *Global Governance*

About the Author Michele Acuto is Research Director and Senior Lecturer in Global Networks Diplomacy in the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy (STePP) at University College London.